

COUNTRY Polish-occupied Germany

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TOPIC Soviet and Polish Troops in Schweidnitz

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DATE OF CONTENT prior to November 1950

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Soviet Troops in Schweidnitz.

1. Soviet troops were observed in Schweidnitz (P 51/H 18) in the former Flandern Kaserne, on the south side of ul. Grenadierska, up to August 1950. The barracks installation included five large billets and several garages and was located, among the various barracks installations on ul. Grenadierska, farthest to the west, in the direction of Schoenbrunn (P 51/H 18). Source believed that from 500 to 600 men were quartered at the installation. Soldiers wearing black epaulets were observed. Men wearing red stripes on their caps were seen occasionally. Guns and motor vehicles were stored in the interior of the installation. From 30 to 35 motor vehicles towing guns were frequently observed leaving the installation. A drill and training ground for Soviet units was located on the north side of ul. Grenadierska, in the angle between this street and the main street toward Schoenbrunn. Only on rare occasions were more than 100 soldiers receiving training there at one time.
2. Another barracks installation, which also quartered a Soviet unit, was east of the former Flandern Kaserne. It was the middle of the three installations on the south side of ul. Grenadierska. Soldiers wearing green visor-type caps and men wearing brown caps with green stripes were observed at this installation. No detachments were observed marching out of the installation for practice, and only limited motor traffic was seen. No weapons were observed stored in the installation. The extensive and large billets east of this installation were occupied by units of the Soviet air force. Soldiers wearing light-blue epaulets were observed there. The former German NCOs' billets opposite the barracks installations on the north side of ul. Grenadierska quartered Soviet officers. After the departure of most Soviet dependents in the fall of 1950, about 50 percent of the billets were unoccupied, but were not released. The billets requisitioned there included 16 to 18 buildings in early November 1950. (1)
3. The former Artillerie or Barbara Kaserne in the north of the city was occupied by a Soviet motorized artillery unit for a long time after the war. Source observed only a motorized unit there by late October 1950. The branch of service of the unit was not determined. (2)
4. Up to late October 1950 a Soviet headquarters was located in the large multi-

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story building of the former Land- und Amtsgericht in the center of the city, east of the main railroad station. Mainly officers were observed at this building. The headquarters included a tribunal generally referred to as the army court. (3) A major military laundry, generally referred to as the army laundry, was located at the post. Soviet handicraft shops were located in the Angela Cloister up to late October 1950. A Soviet officers' mess, guarded by soldiers wearing green-bordered caps was located in the southern sector of the city, north of the Kroischwitz settlement, in a single mansion.

5. The Doegendorf settlement in the southwestern sector of the city, which had been inhabited mainly by pensioners of the former German Armed Forces and Administration under the Germans, was declared a restricted area by the Soviets. In the area adjacent to ul. Grenadierska, Germans and Poles were admitted only when holding special passes. (4) In the summer of 1950, there were Soviet schools in the former Kesselstift in the northeastern sector of Niederboegendorf, on the south side of the main road. Soviet children attended school there before the departure of the families in late 1949. A Soviet agency, under whose jurisdiction fell applications for the release of apartments and other requisitioned items, was in the former labor office, near the Kesselstift and on the north side of the road leading through Niederboegendorf, in mid-1950. The Kroischwitz settlement, which adjoined the borough of Kroischwitz in the southern sector of the city, served as billets for Soviet officers and women employees of the armed forces. This area, in which German personnel was also employed up to late October 1950, was not restricted.
6. A Soviet supply installation, on the eastern perimeter of the city and south-east of the airfield, was a former German installation equipped with a railroad spur, which had suffered no war damages and had been taken over by the Soviets. According to German men and women working there, rations and clothing were stored in the installation. Incoming and outgoing shipments were made by trucks driven by Soviet soldiers.

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7. Up to late October 1950, the former Dolko Kaserne in Schweidnitz quartered approximately one Polish battalion. In source's opinion, the soldiers were infantrymen. When off duty in the city, the men wore caps with a red stripe. The former Galwitz Kaserne in the northern sector of the city, near the former German Lehrbezirkskommando, was also occupied by a Polish unit, which was generally referred to as a training battalion by the population. The men of this unit were also referred to as infantrymen. They wore visor-type service caps with a red stripe. The Polish finance administration was located in the former German Lehrbezirkskommando. From south to north, source indicated the following sequence of the barracks installations in the northern sector of the city: Galwitz Kaserne, Dolko Kaserne, former Artillerie or Barbara Kaserne. (5)

25X1 Comments.

- (1) According to previous reports by other sources dated mid-October 1950, the Flandern Kaserne quartered Soviet air force units, the barracks installation east of the Flandern Kaserne, presumably the Arras Kaserne, was unoccupied, and the installation located still farther to the east, presumably the Grenadier Kaserne, was also occupied by air force units.
- (2) Twelve guns and an unidentified number of AA guns had been observed in the Artillerie Kaserne in November 1950. Hence, it is possible that this

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- (3) installation continuously quartered artillery units up to this date. A previous report by another source also stated that a headquarters including a general of the army was located in this building.
- (4) The Boegendorf settlement is believed to be identical with several villas on the road to Waldenburg, in the southwestern sector of the city, which serve as billets of Soviet officers of the post.
- (5) Several previous reports stated that the Bolko Kaserne and the Peuker Kaserne, which are definitely believed to be identical with the Galwitz Kaserne mentioned in the present report, quarter Polish troops. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] The units have not as yet been identified.

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